

The header features a light beige background with faint, stylized autumn leaves. A white diamond shape is centered, containing the title 'Zionite' in a large, orange, serif font, and 'newsletter' in a smaller, black, cursive font below it. Underneath the diamond, the text 'NEWSLETTER FOR ZION UCC' and 'NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2019' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font. The bottom of the header is decorated with a row of colorful autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, green, and grey.

# Zionite newsletter

NEWSLETTER FOR ZION UCC  
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2019

## LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

*What if we woke up tomorrow with only the things we thanked God for today?*

I love this quote. What IF we woke up tomorrow with only the things we thanked God for today?

Living a life filled with Thankfulness is not the easiest to do. It's easy to feel bad for ourselves. It's easy to think "woe is me" when things go wrong. It's easy to lose faith at tough moments. But to live a life filled with thankfulness is easier said than done.

Thanksgiving is a time when hopefully we refocus our minds on the things we should be thankful for: Beloved family members, pets, roofs over our heads, a great church community filled with loving people, food to fill our stomachs, education, employment, safety... there are many things we can be thankful for every day.

A few weeks ago, I was getting a cup of coffee from Tim Horton's, and it was one of those windy, yucky days (hence my need for a second cup of coffee that morning), and the door outside the dumpster flew open and hit my car with a loud, shocking bang. The employees who know me felt terrible, and I remember saying that I was thankful it happened to me and not someone else. Because I wasn't going to respond with any sort of anger like someone else might. And I was just heading to church, not to a busy job that I would be late for after this incident. Plus, the damage to my car ended up being easily fixed (things literally snapped back into place), so I was again thankful that my car was okay.

Here's my thought: that door was going to fly open one way or another, and I thank God that the door hit my car and not someone else's.

There was no "woe is me" type of thought that crossed my mind... but instead I thought, "thank God it was me." Thank God it wasn't someone who was going to get irrationally angry. Thank God the damage was easily repaired. Thank God this was all a little hiccup in the day.

Can you join me this November and try with all of your heart to be truly thankful? I hear a lot of complaining in this world, and what I really hope to hear from our community of faithful Christians is an overwhelming gratitude to God. Because there is SO much to be thankful for... water, food, roofs over our heads.

Our state of mind influences the way we see and interact with the world. So let's make that state of mind one of gratitude.

In Christ,  
Pastor Elizabeth



# Zion UCC Wreath & Poinsettia Order Form 2019



Order	Price	Qty.	Subtotal
<b>POINSETTIAS</b>			
6" pot: Red	\$8		
6" pot: White	\$8		
In Memory of:			
In Honor of:			
Pick up after Christmas Service: _____			
Donate to shut ins: _____			
<b>TRADITIONAL ROUND WREATHS</b>			
22" - 24" Undecorated	\$20		
22" - 24" Decorated	\$25		
28" - 30" Undecorated	\$30		
28" - 30" Decorated	\$35		
<b>TOTAL</b>			
<b>CUSTOMER INFORMATION</b>			
NAME			
ADDRESS			
PHONE			
<b>PAYMENT INFORMATION</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment due November 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019: Check to be made payable to "Zion UCC" (note on check "Christmas Plant order")	Place order form and payment in the Christmas Box at back of Sanctuary	
<b>PICK UP LOCATION</b>			
Wreath pick up Sunday December 1 <sup>st</sup> 8:30am – 12:00pm at : Zion United Church of Christ 15 Koenig Circle Tonawanda, NY 14150			

## Change of Address:

Please update your directories to include a change in address for Pastor Elizabeth and her family.

195 Londonderry Ln.  
Getzville, NY 14068

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



Zion United Church of Christ  
15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda  
December 21, 2019, 10:00am

Cost: \$5 per person

Call or email to reserve your spot!

836-6220 or ucczion@gmail.com

Enjoy a pancake breakfast and take your picture with Santa\*!

Kids will receive a small present from Santa when they meet him!

\*(bring your own camera)



**FREE**  
for residents of the Town of Tonawanda or Village of Kenmore



EAT IN  
TAKE OUT  
DELIVERY  
THANK YOU  
TOPS  
MARKETS  
For your  
Support!

Thanksgiving Day

November 28, 2019

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Parkside Village Comm. Bldg.  
169 Sheridan Parkside Drive

## Need Delivery?

Call 874-3595 between November 1 and November 15 and we will deliver a complete Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings to your home on Thanksgiving Day around Noon

SPONSORED BY







**Sunday, November 10, 2019**

**2-4pm**

**6363 Transit Rd, Suite 550**

**Lancaster, NY 14043**

**(In the Tops Plaza at Transit and Rehm)**

**\$40 per person**

**Bring your own beverages**

**(Must be 21 to consume alcohol)**

**\*\*Raffles and Wine Pull\*\***

Registration at [www.plymouthcrossroads.com](http://www.plymouthcrossroads.com)

**All proceeds benefit Plymouth Crossroads**

For questions please contact

Michele Harrington

716-393-3906

[michele@plymouthcrossroads.org](mailto:michele@plymouthcrossroads.org)



**Blue  
Christmas  
SERVICE**

**Sponsored by the Ken-Ton Churches Association**

***Monday, December 16, 2019***

***7:00 p.m.***

*The holiday season can be difficult for those who have experienced a loss, illness or other hardship.*

*This Blue Christmas service acknowledges the sadness some people may be feeling. It will also proclaim the message that God comes as light to bring comfort and hope.*

**Church of the Nativity United Church of Christ**

**1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, NY 14223**

**(one block north of Sheridan Drive)**

The church is fully accessible. Parking is in the rear.

## Church Events

- Wednesdays 11am Bible Study
- Wednesdays 6:30pm Bell Choir
- Wednesdays 7:30pm Chancel Choir
- Saturdays 10am AA
- Men's Fellowship, 2nd Saturday of the Month @Family Tree Restaurant
- Women's Fellowship, 3rd Saturday
- Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 8am Men's Fellowship @The Family Tree Restaurant
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day (veterans will be recognized in church on November 10th)
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 7pm Consistory
- Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 7-10pm Youth Group
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 11am Women's Fellowship
- Nov 21<sup>th</sup> 6pm Trustees Meeting
- Nov 23<sup>st</sup> Meat Raffle @Knights of Columbus, 755 Erie Ave. NT
- Nov 30<sup>th</sup> Community Dinner (Thanksgiving Dinner)
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm Consistory
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Men's Fellowship
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Children's Christmas Program, One Service @10:30.
- Dec 16<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service at Church of the Nativity UCC, 1530 Colvin Blvd. Tonawanda
- Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm Trustees
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 7-10pm Youth Group
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Breakfast with Santa
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Services @5pm & 11pm
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve — be safe!

**Silent Night**  
at Zion United Church of Christ  
15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda  
**5:00 PM & 11:00 PM**  
**Christmas Eve**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations to our own Ethan Zientek!**  
**He will be this year's Salutatorian at Williamsville**  
**South High School**  
***We're all proud of you, Ethan!***



From Melanie Hachten

Most of you know my son, Jeremy. He has been a band teacher in Boston, MA for the last three years in Winchester School District. That district was very affluent and money flowed freely to education the children. This year he is with the Malden School District which is considered a high need district. He is teaching grades five through eight band. Over 70% of the children qualify for reduced lunches. This district has no line in their budget for him to purchase instruments.

He has found a website, [donorschoose.org](https://donorschoose.org) where if you search for his last name, Hachten, his wish list of instruments will pop up, and anyone may then donate cash. When his cash goal is met, the instruments are automatically purchased and sent to his school.

He is hoping to meet the goal of \$1,863.00. He will then receive the instruments that he is in need of; which are, three alto saxophones, one clarinet, four flutes, and one trombone. These are not top of the line instruments, but are of good quality and durable. Having these instruments will help him start some of his students who cannot afford to rent or purchase their own instrument in band.

As you all know, music education not only improves your quality of life, but also helps to achieve even better grades in the core subjects. So, I hope all of you will give this some thought, and if you are able to donate, it will be very much appreciated by my son and all of his students.

If anyone has any instrument that they would like to donate, please see Melanie Hachten so we can make arrangements to have you bring it to church one Sunday. [www.donorschoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org) search: Hachten

## Kairos Prison Ministry

### Mission

To bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition to becoming a productive citizen.

### Billboard

Kairos is putting up a new billboard on the highway. The board was donated but they need to raise \$1,400 to cover the cost of the "skin" for the board. They are getting close but still need more to reach \$1,400! Talk to Char B or Pastor to donate.

### Cookies

Kairos Prison Ministry brings cookies in for the weekends with the inmates. Please bring in donations of cookies in sealed packages if you are able (packages cannot be re-sealable). Financial donations are also welcome (see Char B).



**God's Special Time**

*"I was in prison and you visited me."*

**Matthew 25:36**

## **Zion UCC Consistory Meeting Minutes 10-8-19**

Call to Order: Tim Schlegel called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Members Present: Pastor Elizabeth, Glen Gordon, Edie Bauer, Joan Mohalski, Barb Miller, Jeff Quinton, Jason Whalen, Rob Voss, Tim Schlegel, Ron Janiszewski, Ted Camp, Jeff Quinton,  
Excused: Bill Roberts.

**Call to Order:** Pastor Elizabeth lead us in the devotion and Lord's Prayer.

- **Meeting Minutes:** Minutes were reviewed. A change was made to carpentry cost. It was \$1,600.00 and not \$5,000.00. A motion was made to approve by Barb and seconded by Jeff. Motion was passed.
- **Pastor's Report:**
  1. Thanks to Charlotte who did extra work last week since I was out most of the week with bronchitis.
  2. We're hopeful more people will buy tickets to the Anniversary dinner. The history team has been working hard to put on a great celebration with worship and the dinner on October 20<sup>th</sup>, but currently they have only sold about 100 tickets to the dinner (we're hoping to sell 150).
  3. Second round of church t-shirts was placed and will be available for pickup on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
  4. Hearts and Hands speaker will join us at both services and coffee hours on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.
  5. Breakfast with Santa set for December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Administration- child care givers needed. They will be paid.
- Christian Education - Edie reported that the kids are preparing for a December 15 program.
- Missions- no report.
- Church Life + Community Dinners      **Volunteers needed for Community Dinners**
  - September**
  - Menu: Hot Dogs, cheeseburgers, pulled pork, green beans, and au gratin potatoes with brownies for dessert
  - Cost \$117.39, Volunteers: 11, Guests: 60
- Memorials- Jason reported that money was donated in the names of Jean Rohrer and RoseMarie Knerr. The fund balance is \$3241.40. An ATM card was received. Checks have not been received yet.
- Outreach- Glen reported on Veterans' Voices.
- Pastoral Parish Relations- No report.
- Health Ministry -Flu shots to be given from 9-10:30 AM Sunday.
- Strategy Planning (SWOC) - Parking lot striping to be done. Pipelines to be dug up by a contractor for inspection. Daycare/preschool -Tim reported that George Drescher will present information on requirements for a daycare/preschool.

- 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning- buy tickets! Jeff showed a picture of previous and present pastors. A songbook is being put together.
- New Environmental Ministry:
  - a. Committee Members: Barb Miller, Jeff Quinton, Sarah Handley-Cousins, Bill Roberts, Pastor Elizabeth
  - b. Barb, Jeff and Pastor Elizabeth met to put together a list of recommendations
    - i. The Environmental Committee recommends that the church not use lawn chemicals, especially pesticides, and when they are used a more organic option should be selected.
      - Ray Greiner added that when lawn chemicals were recently used they made the side lot too thick and difficult to cut. He recommends we only have the lawn sprayed every few years when dandelions get too difficult to control.
    - ii. Recommend no scents in the bathrooms
    - iii. Consider buying environmentally friendly coffee cups (Consistory should buy these, not the coffee hour crew).
    - iv. Recommend planting tree line next to highway fence on side lot. We envision having a line of apple trees if possible. And if the apple trees do well, consider adding picnic tables.
    - v. Introduce Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center recycling program – there is a program at Dunkirk where we collect items, they recycle them, and they get the proceeds. Details to come.
    - vi. Future idea: with the upcoming ban of plastic bags in NY state, we could make and sell reusable bags made out of either canvas, hemp, or cotton.

#### **Old Business:**

- Handicap accessibility - tabled.
- Community Garden- no update.
- Church banner to be put up next week.
- Monday evening Bible study going well.

#### **New Business:**

- Coffee Hour- need more volunteers for coffee hour and community dinners. Have the youth group help. Have a signup sheet for volunteers to bake treats. Gluten and allergen free treats needed.
- Budget- see handouts by Ron. A motion was made by Barb and seconded by Jeff to increase OCWM budget to \$5,000.00. Approved. A motion was made by Glen and seconded by Edie for Ron to make changes and Trustees to review. Approved.

Closing prayer: In the Church, for the people, with one another. Amen.

Next Meeting: November 12, 7:00 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn by Glen and seconded by Jeff. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.